

Message Text

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65

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 IO-13 /086 W

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R 231453Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7536

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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YAOUNDE PLEASE PASS TO CANADIAN EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, CT, CASC

SUBJECT: DISSOLUTION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESS CHURCH IN THE CAR

1. MISSIONARIES OF THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESS RELIGIOUS SECT IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC WERE INFORMED BY CAR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON 20 AUGUST THAT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY THEIR CHURCH ORGANIZATION IN THE CAR WAS BEING DISSOLVED AND THAT ANYONE PREACHING THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESS DOCTRINE WILL RECEIVE THE "SEVEREST PENALTY". DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS RADIO CENTRAFRIQUE HAS BEEN BROADCASTING THE DECREE EMPHASIZING THAT MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COULD NOT ENTER THE AFRICAN RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS ON BANGUI TO PREACH THEIR DOCTRINE.

2. A CANDADIAN MEMBER OF THE CHURCH WHO CONTACTED THE EMBASSY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NOT OFFICIALLY ADVISED HE EXPECTS ACTION IS THE PRELUDE TO THE EXPULSION OF ALL FOREIGN MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH.

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3. THE CHURCH HAS NOTIFIED THEIR AFFILIATE IN GERMANY WHO IN TURN

WILL CONTACT THE INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK. AT
PRESENT THERE ARE 10 FOREIGN MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH IN THE
CAR. THESE INCLUDE TWO AMERICANS, FOUR GERMANS, THREE
CANADIANS AND ONE FRENCH NATIONAL. THE CHURCH IS AMERICAN
SPONSORED AND OWNS ONE BUILDING/PRINTING SHOP IN BANGUI.

4. COMMENT: THE CANADIAN CHURCH MEMBER BELIEVED THE DECREE
STARTED FROM THE CHURCH'S POSITION OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL
MATTERS WHICH IT HAD INTERPRETED AS PROHIBITING MEMBERSHIP FOR
ITS FOLLOWERS IN THE CAR'S SOLE POLITICAL PARTY.

5. YAOUNDE. PLEASE PASS TO CANADIAN EMBASSY.
QUAINTON

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Message Attributes

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